



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

September 6, 2017

The Honourable Carole James

Minister of Finance

PO Box 9048, Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister James,

RE: BCSTA response to announcement regarding PSEC consultation on BCPSEA

The BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) was pleased to hear that you have initiated a review of the governance of the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) and the reinstatement of trustee directors to the BCPSEA Board of Directors as part of a governance review of the four major employers' associations. We certainly agree that the time has come for the Public Administrator to be replaced by a permanent governance and oversight structure that reflects Boards of Education as the employer and thus appropriately at the core of the employers' association.

Likewise, we agree that a collaborative, coordinated and informed response to the current situation is needed. It will be critically important that the input of BCSTA and Boards of Education be heard in any considered governance and bylaw changes for BCPSEA. The consultation direction and themes that you provided to the President and CEO of the PSEC Secretariat are a good starting point for what will be an important decision. BCSTA is committed to immediately working with PSEC, BCPSEA, the Ministry of Education and you toward achieving the best overall outcome possible.

We were also encouraged that you noted 'advisory structures' as a component to be considered in the review process. It is our belief that the continuation of a BCSTA based advisory structure for BCPSEA, in addition to the reinstatement of trustees to the BCPSEA Board of Directors, would be appropriate. For our employers' association to function most effectively and efficiently, there must be multiple options for input from school trustees as well as subject matter experts at both the school district and provincial levels. In short, an employers' association that reflects the input of Boards of Education, government and sector experts will best serve us all.

Once again, thank you for your consideration of both our member motions and our request that trustee governance and oversight be returned to BCPSEA as soon as possible. We look forward to meeting with Christina Zacharuk and her team to begin work on this very important matter.

BCSTA is committed to working through both the consultation and consideration processes as quickly as possible. Our hope is that we will have the opportunity to co-create with you a forward thinking solution to the current situation. We look forward to an effective transition for BCPSEA in the near future.

Sincerely,



Gordon Swan

President

BC School Trustees Association

cc: The Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Education
The Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health
The Honourable Judy Darcy, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
The Honourable Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development & Poverty Reduction
The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development
The Honourable Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training
Christina Zacharuk, Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat
Renzo del Negro, BC Public School Employers' Association
Scott MacDonald, Deputy Minister of Education
Member Boards of Education